

tions of gratitude, that all succeeding ages may know of our appreciation of the priceless boon of liberty.

*Third*, That we cherish no feeling of bitterness toward those who once held us as slaves. In the language of Lincoln: "With malice toward none, but charity to all; with firmness in the right as God has given us to see the right," do we come to the solemn observance of this day. We only ask that our freedom and enfranchisement shall be recognized and respected as settled conditions, and that we may be permitted the pursuit of the means of happiness under such protections, guarantees, limitations and restrictions, and such only, as are common to other citizens of our State and country. We would gladly join in any and every effort having for its object the good government of our State and the development of its material resources. We earnestly desire to see partizan rancor give way to the advancing legion of a united people determined upon the upbuilding of our waste places, and the highest material prosperity of the whole people. This we hold may be done without renouncing any article of sound political faith, or neglect of the performance of any obligation of citizenship.

*Smith*, Recognizing the means of education as of paramount importance in the great and grand work of elevating the race, and promoting the highest good of the State, we rejoice in the unexampled benevolence by which the work of the school-room followed so swiftly the fiat of freedom, and in the persevering industry with which it has been kept up. Through this channel institutions of learning have been established in all parts of our Southland which have, and are still, pouring into all the arteries of our national body a new and healthful current of life. To the Christian friends whose colossal philanthropy has rendered us so great a blessing we return heartfelt thanks.

We do also rejoice in the means of public education established by our State, by which the free school is made open to all. For this we feel devoutly thankful, and are willing to bear cheerfully our share of the burden which wise statesmanship may deem necessary to the improvement and extension of the system.